

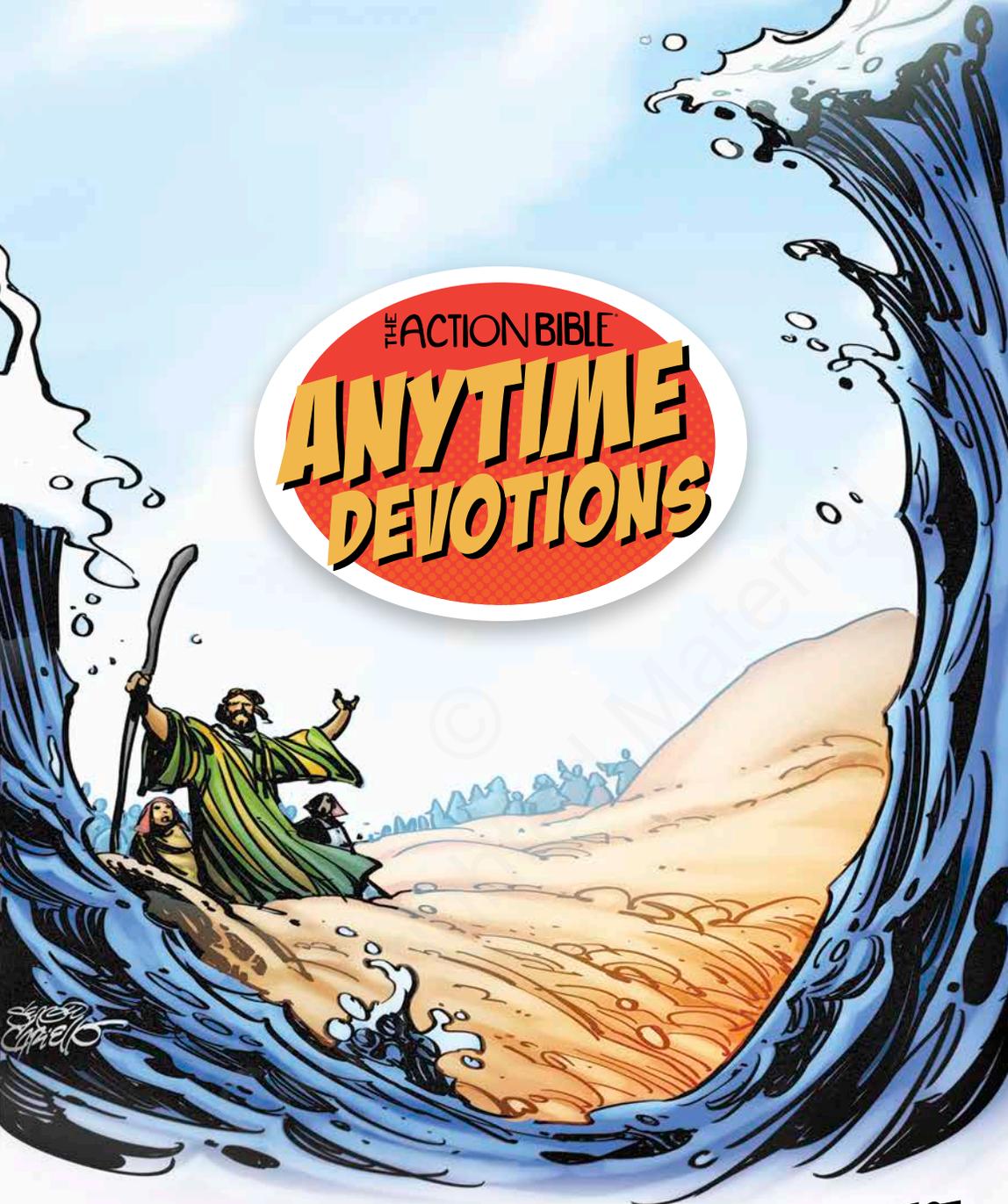


THE ACTION BIBLE
**ANYTIME
DEVOTIONS**



**90 WAYS TO HELP KIDS
CONNECT WITH GOD
ANYTIME, ANYWHERE**

*David
Cappell*



THE ACTION BIBLE™

ANYTIME DEVOTIONS

**90 WAYS TO HELP KIDS CONNECT
WITH GOD ANYTIME, ANYWHERE**

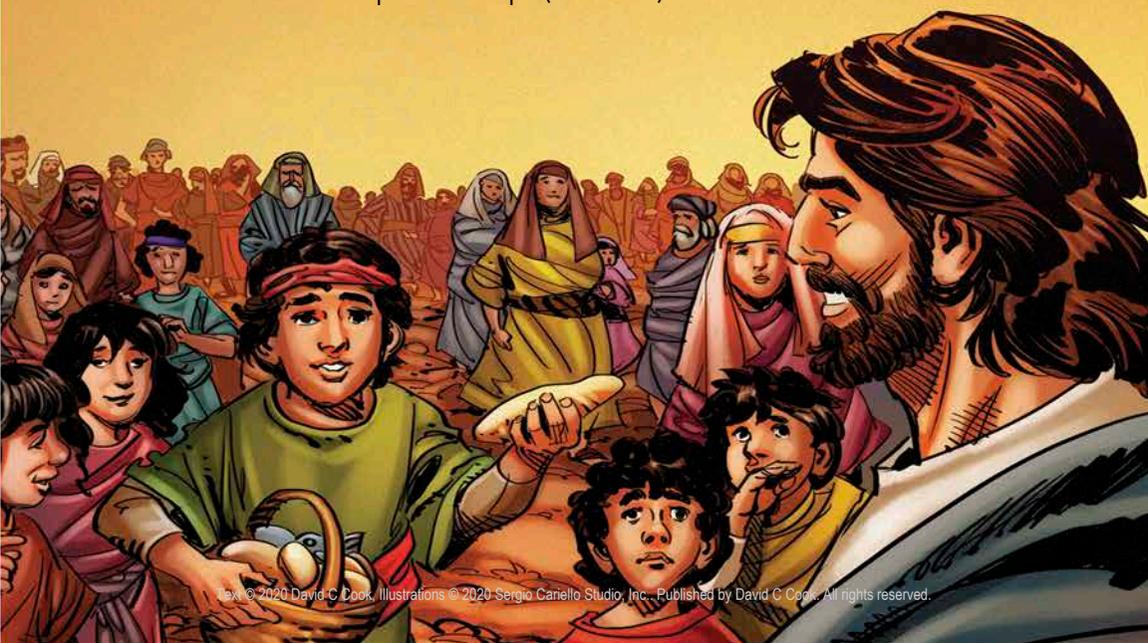
DAVID  COOK™

transforming lives together

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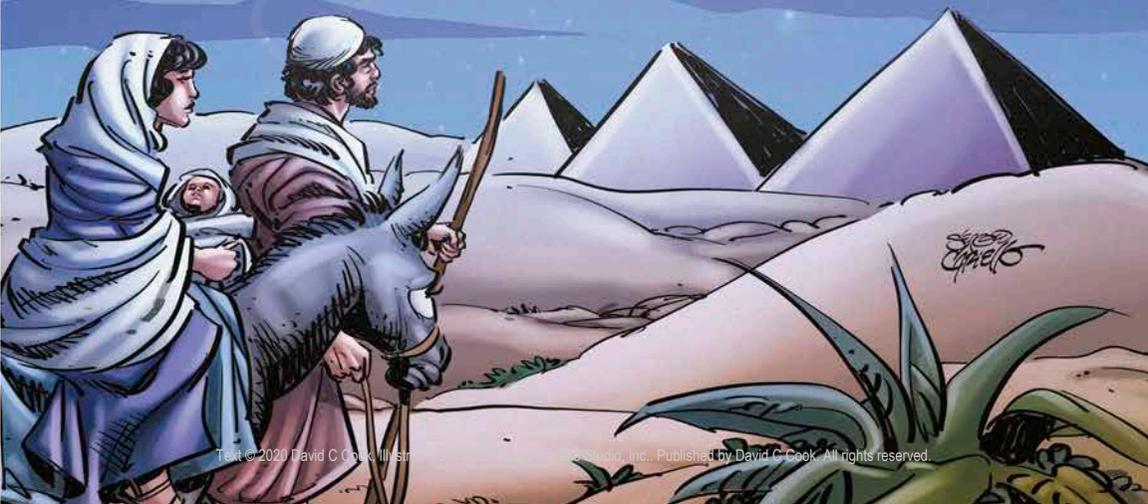
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WHEN YOU'RE LONELY

*SO GOD CREATED MANKIND IN HIS OWN IMAGE ...
MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM.*

GENESIS 1:27

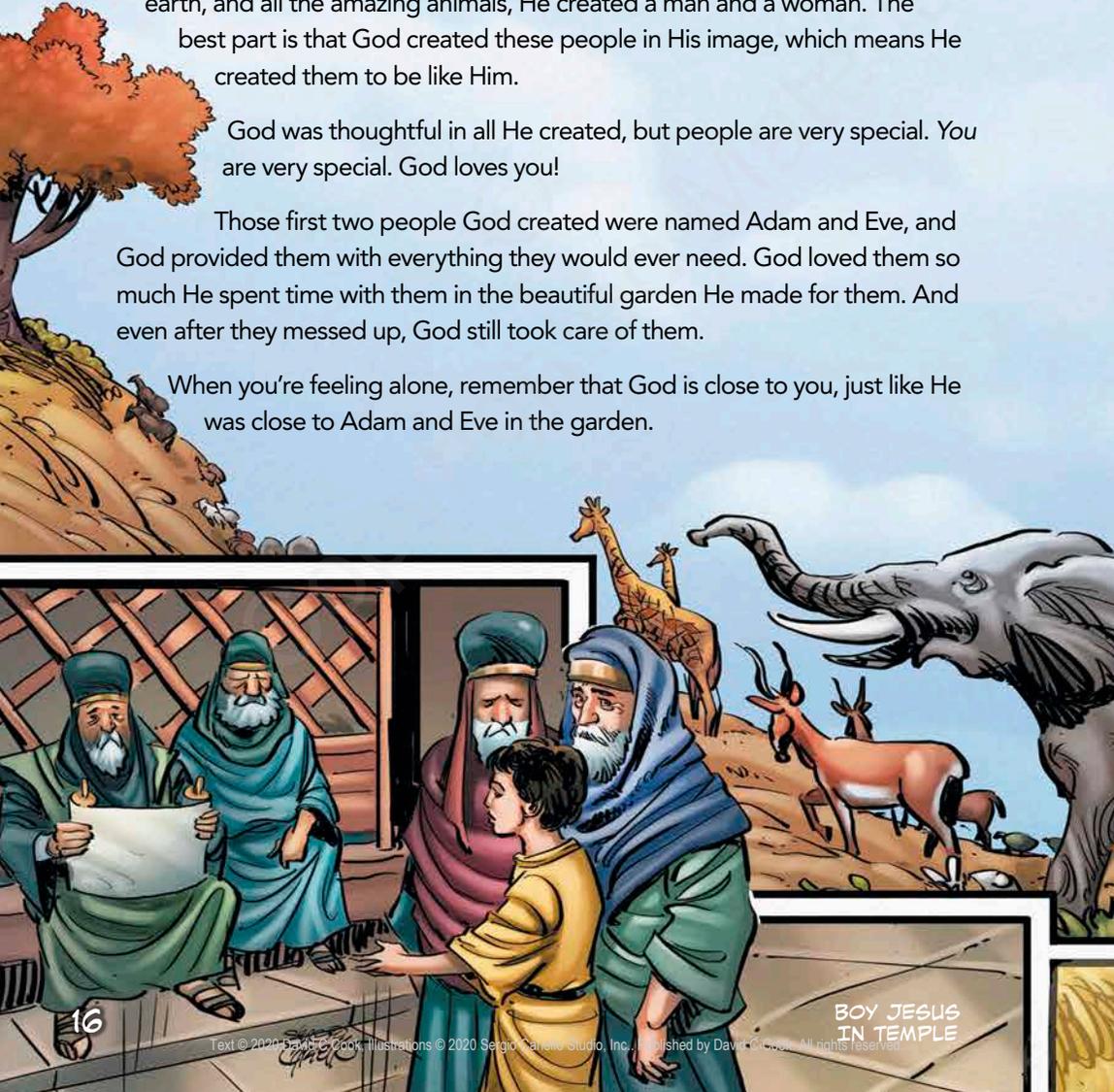
Do you ever feel lonely? Sometimes—even with family, friends, or a pet with you—you may have days when you feel all alone. Everyone feels like that sometimes. You might not get invited to a party, you might be left out of a game, or maybe you come across a group photo and realize no one invited you. That feeling stinks, right?

Here's something to think about: the very first words of the Bible are, "In the beginning God created ..." (Genesis 1:1). After God created light, the sky, the earth, and all the amazing animals, He created a man and a woman. The best part is that God created these people in His image, which means He created them to be like Him.

God was thoughtful in all He created, but people are very special. You are very special. God loves you!

Those first two people God created were named Adam and Eve, and God provided them with everything they would ever need. God loved them so much He spent time with them in the beautiful garden He made for them. And even after they messed up, God still took care of them.

When you're feeling alone, remember that God is close to you, just like He was close to Adam and Eve in the garden.



- God created you to be exactly who you are, and He loves you very much. Tell God how you are feeling. He loves to hear from you!
- There are many ways to pray. Greet God and tell Him how your day is going. *Hi, GOD! SO FAR, MY DAY IS* He wants to hear it all: your worries, joys, fears, and thanks. Open a Bible and read some verses as a prayer. Psalms is a great book of the Bible for this. You may know a familiar prayer like the Lord's Prayer. Do you know that people all around the world know and say some of the same prayers? When you pray like this, remember that you are not alone.
- In the next week, notice others who might be feeling lonely. If you get a chance, talk with them. Let them know God made you, He wants to be with you, and He helps you when you're feeling lonely. If you can't speak with them, pray for them and ask God to bring them comfort.

TAKE IT FURTHER

You can read about the story of creation in "In the Beginning" in *The Action Bible*. Or read about someone who felt lonely in Psalm 25:16–17. Even though David was a king, he still felt lonely and sad sometimes and wrote many songs and poems to God about his feelings.



WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE HIDING

THEN THE MAN AND HIS WIFE HEARD THE SOUND OF THE LORD GOD AS HE WAS WALKING IN THE GARDEN IN THE COOL OF THE DAY, AND THEY HID FROM THE LORD GOD AMONG THE TREES OF THE GARDEN. BUT THE LORD GOD CALLED TO THE MAN, "WHERE ARE YOU?"

GENESIS 3:8-9

Before Emma's parents left for the night, they reminded Emma to do what the sitter, Maria, said, but she wasn't any fun. When Emma asked if they could cook something together, Maria said no. Emma knew how to turn on the stove, but she didn't realize a kitchen towel was touching the burner and a small fire started. Maria put out the fire quickly. Emma couldn't believe what had almost happened and ran to her room. When Emma's parents came home, she was scared to face them. They came to her room and talked with her about the importance of obeying. They loved Emma so much. It was hard, but she apologized to Maria for not listening to her.

Like Emma wanted to hide from her parents, Adam and Eve hid from God in the garden. God gave them one important instruction: don't eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. A serpent told Eve it would be okay, so she did. Adam did too. They disobeyed God and when they heard Him coming, they tried to hide.

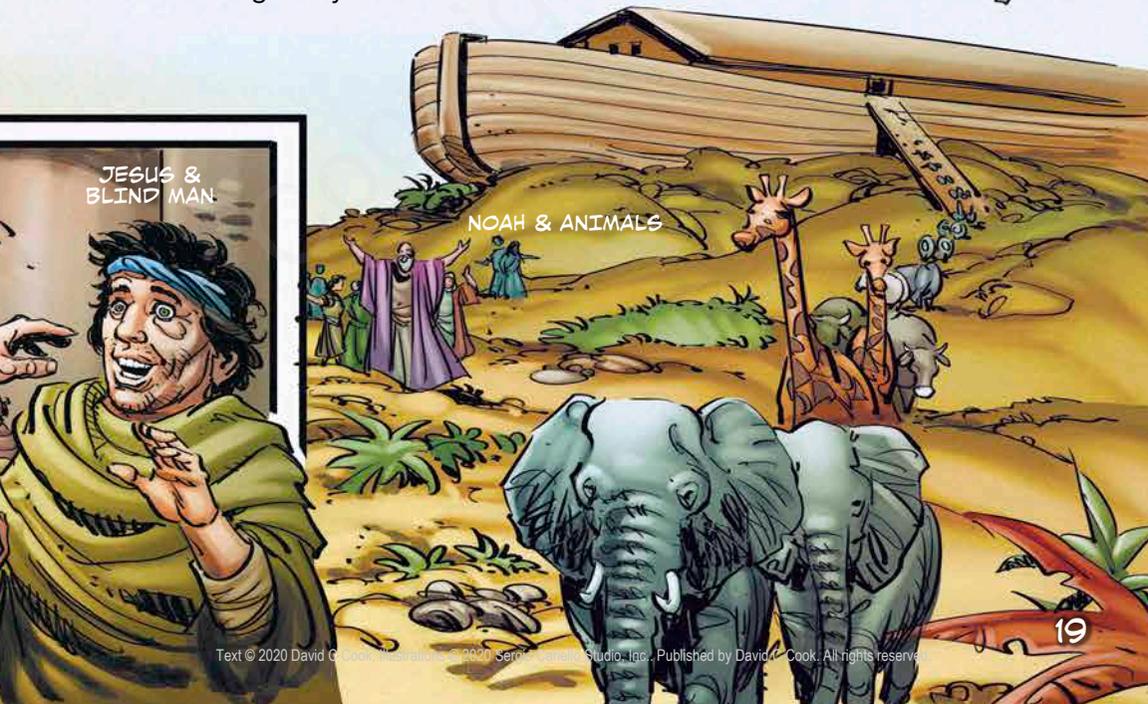
In His great love for them, God had to send them away from the garden. But He had a plan to bring them back.



- We all do things that are wrong. What we choose to do when we make bad choices is important. It may seem easy to hide, but you will always be found. When your parents discipline you, it's because they love you and want you to learn so you won't make the same choices again. God loves you even more!
- Finish this prayer quietly to yourself: **FATHER GOD, I KNOW I MAKE BAD CHOICES SOMETIMES. HELP ME REMEMBER THAT I NEVER NEED TO HIDE FROM YOU. YOU WILL ALWAYS LOVE ME. THESE ARE SOME BAD CHOICES I HAVE MADE ... HELP ME TO OBEY YOU.**
- Do you have a story like Emma's? Share it or the story of Adam and Eve in the garden with someone. Answer these questions together: Have you ever felt like hiding after making a bad choice? How did it work out? What can you do besides hide? How can you help someone who might feel like she needs to hide? How can you encourage her using Adam and Eve's story?

TAKE IT FURTHER

You can read about Adam and Eve in the garden and God's loving response in "Tempted in the Garden" in *The Action Bible*. Read Hebrews 4:13–16 to discover more about how God is with us and the relief in knowing that nothing is truly hidden from Him.



JESUS &
BLIND MAN

NOAH & ANIMALS

WHEN HOPE IS HARD TO SEE

*"YOU ARE THE GOD WHO SEES ME," FOR SHE SAID,
"I HAVE NOW SEEN THE ONE WHO SEES ME."*

GENESIS 16:13

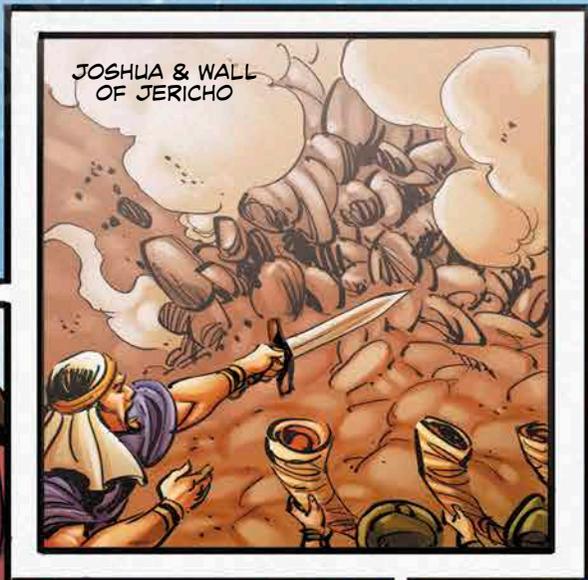
Jocelyn was feeling down again. Her friends excitedly chatted over lunch about their plans for the upcoming holiday. She knew she should be happy too, but she just couldn't shake this sadness she felt since her grandma died a few weeks ago.

Her friends wanted to help. They wanted her to be happy again! But only her mom and dad understood and told her that these feelings of sadness were normal. Jocelyn hoped she would feel better ... but when?

In the Bible, Hagar was someone who was short on hope. She was being mistreated so she ran away. She couldn't see any way out! But God sent an angel to remind her that she was important to Him. Hagar listened and knew that God noticed her in her time of sadness. God had seen her fears and worries. God gave Hagar hope because she realized that He saw her and was looking after her.



PRODIGAL SON
& FATHER



JOSHUA & WALL
OF JERICO

Here are some things that might help when you're feeling sad:

- Talk about your feelings with your parents or a trusted friend. Sometimes sadness can stay with us a long time. Some people get angry when they are sad or just feel numb—like they don't want to do anything. Long-lasting sadness can be something called depression. It's important to talk to an adult if you have sadness that you just can't move past.
- Close your eyes and think about three things that make you happy, or that you are thankful for. Focusing on being grateful is a way to feel better when you are sad.
- Talk to God. Here's one idea for how to do that: **GOD, I'M SO GLAD YOU ARE ALWAYS WITH ME. IT GIVES ME HOPE TO KNOW THAT THROUGH YOUR SADNESS CAN END. THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS LISTENING TO ME. I LOVE YOU! AMEN.**
- A dove is a bird that represents hope. Find a family member or a friend and go outside. Sit in a comfortable place or lay down in the grass and watch for birds. While you're watching, talk about things that make you happy or hopeful.

TAKE IT FURTHER

Read the story of Hagar in "Insufficient Sons" in *The Action Bible*. Read Genesis 8 to learn more about how the dove is a symbol of hope and Romans 15:13 for some encouragement when you are feeling sad.



ABRAHAM, SARAH,
& ISAAC